

# Special Session

<b>Agenda Item #</b>	1
<b>Meeting Date</b>	October 29, 2007
<b>Prepared By</b>	Jessie Carpenter City Clerk
<b>Approved By</b>	Barbara B. Matthews City Manager

<b>Discussion Item</b>	Resolution Establishing the Text to be Entered onto the Sam Abbott Commemorative Plaque
<b>Background</b>	<p>At the worksession on October 22, the Council reviewed the proposed language for the commemorative plaque to be dedicated in honor of former Mayor Sam Abbott. The Council directed staff to draft a resolution for adoption on October 29.</p> <p>The attached resolution incorporates the language agreed upon by the family and discussed at the worksession. The resolution directs the City Manager to work with the family to select a suitable design and material for the plaque, to make arrangements for fabrication, and to have the plaque permanently mounted in the area inside the front entrance of the main level of the building.</p>
<b>Policy</b>	The Council may adopt resolutions to commemorate and recognize individuals, organizations and events that benefit the Takoma Park community.
<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	To be determined.
<b>Attachments</b>	Draft Resolution
<b>Recommendation</b>	Staff recommends that the Council consider and adopt the attached ordinance.

Introduced by:

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

**Resolution 2007-\_\_**

**Placing a Sam Abbott Commemorative Plaque  
in the Takoma Park Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens’ Center**

**WHEREAS,** Sam Abbott served as Mayor of Takoma Park from 1980 - 1985; and

**WHEREAS,** Mayor Abbott’s contributions were recognized by City Council Resolution 1991-27, which authorized the addition of the words “Sam Abbott Citizens’ Center” to the name of the former Municipal Building, now named the Takoma Park Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens’ Center; and

**WHEREAS,** the Council desires to ensure that the residents, staff, and visitors who enter the Takoma Park Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens’ Center understand the importance of the contribution that Sam Abbott made to Takoma Park.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND THAT** a commemorative plaque dedicated to Sam Abbott shall be placed in a permanent location in the lobby area of the building; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the plaque shall read as follows:

The Sam Abbott Citizens’ Center

Is dedicated to the living legacy of  
Mayor Sam Abbott  
(1980 – 1985)

*“If we can’t make it happen in Takoma Park, there’s no hope for the nation.”*

Mayor Sammie Abdullah Abbott will always be remembered as the legendary activist and world citizen who helped transform Takoma Park into a city known throughout the nation for its commitment to participatory democracy, justice, peace, and the environment.

Among his achievements was the saving of thousands of homes from destruction by the North Central Freeway, and the leveraging of Highway Trust Funds to build the Metro system. He later helped save Takoma Park Junior High School as well as hundreds of Victorian era homes slated for demolition. He helped found Earth Day and the Takoma Park Folk Festival.

During Sam Abbott’s visionary tenure as Mayor, rent stabilization was instituted; a city

newsletter was created; speed bumps and 4-way stops slowed residential traffic; citizen advisory committees were established and public participation in the governmental process was encouraged. Takoma Park became Tree City, USA; a Sanctuary City for political refugees; and a Nuclear-Free Zone. Sam fought for the revitalization of Takoma Old Town and against high-density development. With an energetic City Council and an activist citizenry, Mayor Abbott led the fight for unification of our city into one county, Montgomery.

Under the banner “Takoma Park: Preserve It or Lose It,” Sam Abbott spent a half century waging the battles that helped establish the identity of Takoma Park as a vibrant community that acts locally and thinks globally.

The democratic ideals to which Mayor Sam Abbott devoted his life are a living legacy and continuing part of the values that define the City of Takoma Park, MD.

*“I hate injustice...I took the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution seriously.  
I took it seriously that all men are created equal.”*

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the City Manager is directed to work with Mayor Abbott’s family to select a suitable design and location for the plaque, and to arrange to have it prepared and mounted.

**Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2007.**